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Letter dated 8 May 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the forthcoming briefing to the Security Council, which is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 11 May 2017, on the ongoing political crisis in Guinea-Bissau and the update on outcomes of the recent mission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to the country.

In this connection, I also have the honour, in Liberia's capacity as Chair of the Authority of Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States, to hereby transmit the final communiqué of the ECOWAS high-level ministerial meeting that took place in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on 23 and 24 April 2017.

Your assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex among the members of the Council for the impending meeting would be highly appreciated.

(*Signed*) Remongar **Dennis**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

17-07490 (E) 110517

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

1. In furtherance to the decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) taken at its fiftieth Ordinary Summit, held in Abuja on 17 December 2016, which urged all stakeholders of Guinea-Bissau to strictly respect and comply with the provisions of the 14 October 2016 Conakry Agreement, in particular compliance with paragraph 8 of the Agreement, a ministerial mission visited Guinea-Bissau on 23 and 24 April 2017, with the objective of assessing and evaluating the status of the implementation of the Agreement.

2. The high-level delegation was led by Marjon V. Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia and Chairperson of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, and comprised Naby Youssouf Kiridi Bangoura, Minister of State and Secretary-General of the Presidency of Guinea; Samura M. W. Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Marcel A. de Souza, President of the ECOWAS Commission; Ambassador Mamadou Deme of Senegal; and the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Senegalese Diaspora of the Republic of Senegal, Mankeur Ndiaye.

3. The delegation set out for Bissau on 23 April 2017, following consultations in Conakry with Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea and ECOWAS Mediator on Guinea-Bissau and Chairperson of the Assembly of the Heads of State of the African Union.

4. On arrival, the delegation held consultations with the international community, including the members of the Guinea-Bissau P5 (ECOWAS, African Union, Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, European Union and United Nations) in order to receive their perspectives on the ongoing political situation.

5. On 24 April, the delegation held consultations with civil society organizations, including traditional and religious leaders, and women and youth groups. The delegation also met and had consultations with key political actors, including the President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, José Mário Vaz; the President of the National People's Assembly, Cipriano Cassamá; the Prime Minister, Umaro El Mokhtar Sissoco Embaló; the leadership of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the Party for Social Renewal (PRS), the Union for Change (UM), the Democratic Convergence Party (PCD) and the New Democracy Party (PND); and representatives of the group of 15 dissident PAIGC parliamentarians.

6. The delegation took note of the briefings of the members of the Guinea-Bissau P5 and the deliberations with civil society and the relevant political actors. The delegation recalled the main decisions taken at the fiftieth Ordinary Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, held in Abuja on 17 December 2016, and expressed grave concern about the inability of the political actors to implement the main provisions of the 14 October 2016 Conakry Agreement.

7. The delegation also reaffirmed the deep concern of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, and that of the international community, over the protracted political and institutional crisis in Guinea-Bissau as a result of the inability of political stakeholders to reach a lasting and consensual solution, leading to the current gridlock.

8. The delegation took note of the payment of several months of salary arrears and observed the worrisome deteriorating sociopolitical and security situation in the country, including the dysfunction of key State institutions and its dire impact on the citizenry; the increase in belligerent and incendiary political statements; and the frequent civil demonstrations and consequent rising tensions.

9. Taking note of the aforementioned, the delegation:

(a) Expresses its appreciation and commendation to the leadership of President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, Chairperson of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, and President Alpha Condé, ECOWAS Mediator, for their steadfastness and commitment to resolving the Guinea-Bissau political crisis despite provocations by some of the parties to the ongoing impasse;

(b) Notes that the Conakry Agreement has not been implemented by signatories and relevant parties;

(c) Recalls the decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS at its Ordinary Summit of 17 December 2016, and the immediate implementation of all the decisions in line with the letter and spirit of the Conakry Agreement endorsed by the African Union and the United Nations;

(d) Strongly requests the immediate cessation of all bellicose and incendiary pronouncements, identity incitements and the clampdown on peaceful demonstrations, and urges political actors to be circumspect in their public utterances and further refrain from direct personality attacks on the institution and leadership of ECOWAS and the Mediator, the African Union and the United Nations, as well as attacks through the media;

(e) Appeals to all political actors to take all necessary and immediate steps to ensure the functioning of State institutions and, consequently, requests the international community and development partners to redeem their pledges and commitments to the country to ensure optimal functioning of these institutions in the interest of the population;

(f) Commends the armed forces for their continued non-interference in the ongoing political crisis, and strongly urges the armed forces to maintain the same posture;

(g) Recalls the decision of the ECOWAS Authority to withdraw the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) by 30 June 2017, starting from 28 April 2017, and urges the international community to give all necessary support to ensure the full and seamless transition of security architecture to the national army. The decision to withdraw ECOMIB from Guinea-Bissau was officially communicated on 21 April 2017 to the President of the Republic by the Chairperson of the ECOWAS Authority, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf;

(h) Takes note of the readiness of the Government and PAIGC to engage in direct dialogue to ensure the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, and calls upon them to initiate such dialogue without delay;

(i) Recommends that, in the event of non-compliance or lack of concrete steps to implement these decisions within 30 days from this day, the Authority approve the imposition of relevant sanctions by all Member States and the international community on individuals, groups of individuals and entities who obstruct the smooth implementation of the Conakry Agreement and their close collaborators with immediate effect;

(j) Recommends that the Authority remain seized of the situation in Guinea-Bissau, and instructs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to transmit these

decisions to the African Union Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau for the attention of the African Union and the United Nations for information and appropriate action.

Bissau, 24 April 2017